



DRAFT Minutes

Danvers Rail Trail Advisory Committee

March 21, 2019

Attendees:

RTAC Members: Paul McNulty, Nancy McNulty, Joe Anthony, Larry Perrault, Matthew Duggan, Scott Bornstein. Quorum established. RTAC Members not present: Charles Lincicum, Laura Cilley, Lori Dupont.

Others: Mark Jones, Aaron Henry, Bill Graham, John Waters, Sarah Bornstein.

New Business;

No comments from the public

Earth Day Clean Up Saturday April 27– We agreed that we should hold this event again in 2019, from 9:00 am till about 1:00 pm. We will meet at the Hobart Lot and send out work crews. We felt that the trail looked to be in pretty good shape, so we might need less time this year.

Aaron Henry will check on availability of Town of Danvers truck and possibly a crew (Tyler Berry) to help that day.

Paul and Mark will develop the website posting and email.

Paul will help organize the day. Margaret (via email) asked that we also include some “fun” activities, such as photos to post to the website and social media, and encourage more ongoing support.

YMCA Healthy Kids Day – also scheduled for April 27. Given the Earth Day project, the RTAC will not be able to attend this event. However, Nancy will see if any DHS students would like to volunteer, as they have in the past.

Mother’s Day Walk/Ride on May 11 or 12. We discussed whether to do this event again this year. All thought it was good event and agreed to finalize plans at our April meeting.

Current/Recent Business:

Recap Chocolate Walk (held on 2/9) – all agreed it was a good even, and well attended. Again, thanks go out to Putnam Pantry for their chocolate donations.

Matt Duggan suggested that we really need to do one or two “Chocolate Stops” along the route. These were done in past years and missed this year. All agreed we’d do them again in 2020.

Grant Application Status. Aaron reviewed the status of the Mass Trails grant application which is aimed at funding the next wave of design work on the trail extension. The RTAC provided a letter of support. Aaron hopes to hear back from MassTrails by June. In preparation of this grant being approved, Aaron has requested a \$10,000 warrant article to be applied to the Town of Danvers portion of the grant, in addition to the \$50,000 approved last year (grant request summary: \$300k in total, \$240k from MA, and \$60K from Danvers).



Rail Trail Extension Project – The draft VHB report should be ready in April and will be reviewed with RTAC. The survey will evaluate on the full extension route with a focus on the Beaver Brook and Rt. 62 crossing challenges.

Joe Anthony strongly requested the VHB report include an evaluation of a passageway UNDER Rte 62 (near Beaver Brook and Vineyard St). Joe feels that an underpass would be much safer for pedestrians, reduce traffic delays as pedestrians cross, and likely be less expensive. Aaron will have VHB address this request.

Tentatively Aaron is planning an April community review and input meeting on this project.

Amenities at Hobart Lot such as benches, picnic table were discussed. Joe, Charley, and Paul evaluated the area and Joe created a short presentation on likely spots for the amenities (attached). The group all like the location suggestion and preferred the tables with small canopies (place to get out of the sun).

Aaron will ensure that Paul and he discuss these ideas with Danvers Electric and DPW, solicit their feedback, and prepared to discuss next steps at our April meeting.

During this discussion, we agreed to continue with our two Porta-Potties in 2019 (one at Hobart Lot and one at Putnamville Park). Nancy moved, and Scott seconded a motion to fund up to \$2,300 for the two potties to cover late April to mid-October. Cleaning will be by bi-weekly.

Paul will contact United Services to set this up. And will also ensure the locations are prepared for delivery.

DPW Repairs to Washouts/Crossings- Aaron will set a meeting with Paul and the DPW to discuss this work. This will then be reviewed at the April RTAC meeting.

Pedestrian Beacons for Pine St. Aaron has ordered the beacons (same style solar powered beacons at other trail locations). Cost is \$7,100 which will be covered by the already approved \$8k of FY19 town funding.

Maintenance List – A new 2019 version has been created, including 2018 items still and progress and a few new items.

Finances:

501c3 Finance update

- Larry noted the current operating balance is approximately \$ 27k as of March 21. No new expenses noted.
- Mile Marker donations continue to come in. New markers have been purchased by Peoples Bank. Thank you, Larry and Diane, for your efforts.
- Larry, Mark, Paul, Margaret, Sarah, and Diane continue to meet and work on new sponsors.
- Larry and Margaret will work with our accountant, Mike Grandmaison, to ensure our accounting approach is ready for easy tax return preparation and reporting.
- To help with planning and fund raising, the need for an operating and longer term “strategic” budget was discussed. Paul will have something for review at the March RTAC meeting.

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Longer-term fund-raising plans. Margaret was not able to attend this meeting, so we'll cover at a future meeting,

Minutes

Matt moved, Nancy seconded; all approved to accept January 17, 2019 minutes (posted on the town website).

Future RTAC Meeting:

We agreed to **next meeting April 18, 2019.**

Rail Trail - Refresh Station at Hobart - Assessment

Why Refresh Station

- The Hobart Lot is a mecca, a parking spot and start/end point for many trail users.
- There is open and relatively safe space available.
- There is a public rest room at this spot.

- **Location** - Cherry St. Fish Market (CSFM) to Pickering St. This stretch is private which is good but secluded which is not good for mischief; it is either too close to CSFM or too far from parked cars.
- **Location** - An open area not too close to residences. It is under the electric lines but not near a pole - so good location for benches. It may be too close to trail and not private enough for a picnic table. Close to porta-john but not too close.
- **Location** - Nicely landscaped area maintained by the town; has granite seats; Very accessible from parking and from sidewalk; near porta-john; some separation from sidewalk and from parking area for eating; doesn't need new benches; Room for tables, bike rack and small playground toy.
- **Location** - Stretch to Western Cycle at Trail is too remote from parking and not conducive for picnicking. It's okay for benches but confined and close to trail's edge.

Field Trip - find possible locations for Refresh Station
 Paul, Charley & Joe - Saturday, January 26th, 2019

Looked at areas ranging from Pickering Street to Western Cycle.

Basic considerations: Convenient, open & visible, close to parking and porta-john, sufficient privacy to eat, not too close to residences and in green or landscaped area.

With benches



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With platform structure



Picnic Table Pavilion



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